

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1547

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, NATO, WTO, SW
SUBJ: SWEDISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON MILITARY ACTIVITY IN
THE BALTIC

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE ERIC KRONMARK ON APRIL 4 RESPONDED TO
A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION CONCERNING MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE
BALTIC. KRONMARK'S STATEMENT IS A GOOD, ALBEIT BRIEF, OFFICIAL
SUMMARY OF FOREIGN MILITARY MANEUVERS, TRAINING, RECONNAISSANCE
AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY NAVAL AND AIR, NEAR
SWEDISH TERRITORY. THE COMPLETE STATEMENT IN UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE GREAT ACCUMULATION OF BOTH WARSAW PACT AND NATO ARMED
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FORCES IN EUROPE MEANS THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF MILITARY
ACTIVITY IN OUR VICINITY ON LAND, SEA AND IN THE AIR. THIS IS
MOSTLY TRAINING AND MANEUVERS. BUT THERE ARE ALSO RECONNAISS-
ANCE AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS, WHICH ARE PART OF THE GREAT
POWERS' WORLDWIDE SECURITY SYSTEM.

THE NATURE AND SCALE OF THE TRAINING AND MANEUVER ACTIVITIES

OF THE WARSAW PACT IN THE BALTIC AREA VARY, OF COURSE, DEPENDING PARTLY ON THE TRAINING LEVELS OF CONSCRIPTS AND PARTLY ON THE TYPE OF UNITS BEING TRAINED. BASIC TRAINING IS DONE FROM THE HOME BASES, WHEREAS FIELD EXERCISES ARE OFTEN OBSERVABLE OUTSIDE THESE BASES. NAVAL AND AIR FORCES THUS OFTEN SPREAD THEIR MANEUVERS OVER THE WHOLE OF THE SOUTHERN BALTIC, FROM THE BALTIC STATES TO RUGEN.

IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL MANEUVERS, MAJOR NAVAL MANEUVERS TAKE PLACE EVERY YEAR IN WHICH ARMED FORCES FROM SEVERAL PACT STATES TAKE PART. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE MANEUVER WHICH TOOK PLACE IN JULY 1977, IN WHICH ABOUT 150 NAVAL VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, MARINES AND A THOUSAND OR SO PARATROOPERS PARTICIPATED. OPERATIONS INCLUDED TRAINING IN LANDING SEABORNE AND AIRBORNE TROOPS ON THE ISLAND OF USEDOM IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

NATO MANEUVERS IN THE BALTIC MAINLY INVOLVE DANISH AND WEST GERMAN FORCES. EXERCISES PRIMARILY TAKE PLACE IN THE WEST PART OF THE SOUTHERN BALTIC, BUT WE HAVE ALSO OBSERVED MANEUVERS OUTSIDE THE BLEKINGE COAST AND SOUTH OF GOTLAND.

SEVERAL NATIONS TAKE PART IN NATO EXERCISES EVERY YEAR. THESE EXERCISES ARE USUALLY CONCENTRATED TO THE NORTH SEA AND THE SKAGERACK BUT ARE ALSO CARRIED OUT IN THE KATTEGAT, IN DANISH WATERS AND IN THE SOUTHERN BALTIC.

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IN ADDITION TO MANEUVER OPERATIONS THERE IS CONTINUOUS AND LARGE-SCALE MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY. BOTH GREAT-POWER BLOCS HAVE FOR MANY YEARS MAINTAINED A CONSTANT MARINE SURVEILLANCE OF THE BALTIC APPROACHES. NATO BASES THIS SURVEILLANCE ON THE DANISH ISLANDS. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTIES, THE WARSAW PACT HAS HAD THREE SURVEILLANCE VESSELS CONSTANTLY STATIONED IN THE SOUTHWEST BALTIC--ONE SOUTH OF TRELLEBORG, ONE AT MON AND ONE AT FEHMARN. THIS SURVEILLANCE IS INTENSIFIED WHEN NATO EXERCISES ARE GOING ON IN THE AREA. FOREIGN VESSELS ON NAVAL VISITS IN THE BALTIC SEA ARE ALSO KEPT UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE BY NAVAL VESSELS AND RECONNAISSANCE PLANES.

ANOTHER ACTIVITY WE CAN OBSERVE ALSO MOST DAILY OVER THE BALTIC IS THE AIR RECONNAISSANCE OF BOTH SIDES. THIS IS A FAIRLY PREMINENT ELEMENT IN THE ALREADY DENSE AIR TRAFFIC PATTERN IN THIS AREA. LAST YEAR THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JANUARY 5, 1977, WHEN AN AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE PLANE FLEW CLOSE TO A SOVIET PASSENGER PLANE. INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND ARE, HOWEVER, FAIRLY RARE, A FACT WHICH SHOWS THAT THE PARTIES EXERCISE GREAT VIGILANCE. NATO'S RECONNAISSANCE PLANES ALSO

FOLLOW FAIRLY REGULAR ROUTES. WE HAVE OFTER OBSERVED HOW PLANES FROM THE OTHER SIDE GO UP TO MEET AND FOLLOW THE NATO PLANE UNTIL IT TURNS BACK TOWARDS THE SOUTHWEST.

THE LARGE-SCALE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN AND OVER THE BALTIC SEA MEANS THAT FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT SOMETIMES COME INTO OR OVER OUR TERRITORY. EVERY YEAR WE RECORD 10-15 SUCH VIOLATIONS OF OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS AND ABOUT 20 OF OUR AIRSPACE. IN 1977 VIOLATIONS OF TERRITORIAL WATERS NUMBERED 19 AND OF OUR AIRSPACE 28, A SLIGHT INCREASE ON THE AVERAGE FOR PREVIOUS YEARS. BUT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A COINCIDENCE. MANY OF THE VIOLATIONS ARE OF COURSE UNINTENTIONAL AND MAY BE DUE TO NAVIGATION ERRORS.

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FOREIGN SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WHICH VIOLATE OUR TERRITORY WILL BE TURNED BACK. FOR THIS PURPOSE WE MAINTAIN CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE OF OUR BORDERS AND SURROUFDING AREAS, AND ALSO KEEP SOME NAVAL VESSELS AND INTERCEPTER AIRCRAFT IN READINESS. THERE EMERGENCY UNITS ARE OF COURSE ALERTED NOT ONLY WHEN SWEDISH TERRITORY IS VIOLATED BUT ALSO WHEN FOREIGN FORCES COME SO CLOSE TO OUR BORDERS THAT THERE IS A RISK OF OUR TERRIOTY BEING VIOLATED. THE NAVAL VESSELS USUALLY GO INTO ACTION ABOUT 200 TIMES A YEAR, IN 1977 ACTIONS NUMBERED 237. ACTIONS TAKEN BY INTERCEPTOR PLANES TOTALLED 360 IN 1976 AND 379 IN 1977. THE NUMBER OF ACTIONS GIVES SOME IDEA OF THE SCALE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN OUR VICINITY.

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I NOW GO ON TO DEAL WITH MR. PETERSSON'S QUESTION ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE BALTIC AREA. TO START WITH I SHOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE RANGE OF THE GREAT POWERS' STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES--MISSILES AND AIRCRAFT--IS SUCH THAT THEY CAN BE BROUGHT INTO ACTION AGAINST TARGETS IN NORTHERN EUROPE ALSO FROM BASES AND DEPLOYMENT AREAS FAR FROM HERE.

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES.

MOST OF THE SOVIET NUCLEAR MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES ARE PROBABLY GROUPED IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE SOVIET UNION AND FROM THERE CAN REACH TARGETS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND IN SCANDINAVIA. A NUMBER OF MISSILES ARE PROBABLY STATIONED IN THE NORTHWEST OF THE SOVIET UNION FROM WHERE THEY CAN REACH TARGETS IN SCANDINAVIA. MOST OF THE SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE

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MISSILES HAVE FIXED LAUNCHING RAMPS AND ARE VULNERABLE. BUT A NEW MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE IS BEING INTRODUCED. IT IS CALLED SS-20 AND HAS A RANGE OF ABOUT 3,000 KILOMETERS. IT IS MOBILE AND IS EXPECTED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE.

BOTH THE USA AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. THIS IS ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE STATISTICS PREPARED IN WEST AND EAST GERMANY. PART OF THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON FORCES CAN REACH TARGETS IN THE BALTIC AREA DEPENDING UPON THE CHOICE OF DEPLOYMENT AND WEAPON CARRIER.

THE TRANSFER OF SIX SOVIET GOLF SUBMARINES FROM THE MURMANSK AREA TO THE BALTIC SEA INTRODUCES A NEW FEATURE TO THE MILITARY PATTERN IN OUR VICINITY. THESE SUBMARINES CARRY THREE NUCLEAR MISSILES, REPORTEDLY WITH A RANGE OF 1,300 KILOMETERS.

THE PRESENCE OF THE GOLF SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC SEA MEANS FOR THE FIRST TIME WE NOW HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN AN AREA WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SPARED SUCH WEAPONS. IT ALSO MEANS THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAVE BEEN STATIONED NEARER OUR BORDERS.

THIS MAKES OUR SITUATION MORE NULNERABLE IN THE EVENT OF
WAR, A SITUATION WHICH PERTURBS US AND HAS OCCASIONED OUR
REACTION.

IF THE STABILITY OF THE NORDIC AREA IS TO BE PRESERVED,
THE GREAT POWERS MUST EXERCISE RESTRAINT WHEN IT COMES TO
INTRODUCING NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THIS REGION AND ITS
VICINITY AS WELL AS OTHER MEASURES OF MILITARY POLICY WHICH
MAY AFFECT THE REGIONAL BALANCE OF STRENGTH. AS THE MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECLARED ON FEBRUARY 27, THERE IS A
RISK OF POLITICAL DETENTE BEING IMPAIRED IF THE GREAT POWERS
DO NOT TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO RESTRICT ARMAMENTS INSTEAD
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OF DEVELOPING NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SPREADING EXISTING
WEAPONS TO NEW AREAS. END TEXT
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